

## Table Load/Unload

The equivalent to Infx's LOAD/UNLOAD is postgresql's COPY FROM/COPY TO.

To unload the contents of a database table to a file:

psql dbname

```
==> \COPY tablename TO filename USING DELIMITERS '|' WITH NULL AS ''
```

To load the contents of a file into a database table:

psql dbname

```
==> \COPY tablename FROM filename USING DELIMITERS '|' WITH NULL AS ''
```

Note that these statements have no ";" (semi colon) at the end!

\COPY TO and \COPY FROM stop at the first error. If an error occurs while loading a table using \COPY ... FROM, the records already loaded are not visible or accessible but TAKE UP SPACE ON THE DISK. VACUUM must be run to make this space available for reuse.

Default delimiter for \COPY is TAB. The above example shows how to change this to use the pipe symbol '|' as a delimiter.

Infx LOAD and UNLOAD allow a SELECT statement to be included to filter the records. \COPY FROM and \COPY TO do not allow a SELECT statement. To write a partial table, select into a temp table and then \COPY the temp table

COPY TO and COPY FROM can also be run from the command line. You must be logged in as user = postgres to do this. This is more efficient than \COPY through psql because all data has to pass through the client/server connection.

### Unload File Format

- unload file formats differ slightly bet Infx and postgres

if | is delimiter:

Infx: field1 | field2 | field3 |

psql: field1 | field2 | field3 (no delimiter on end of line)

### Use of NULLs

- COPY FROM command needs the "WITH NULL AS" option to allow NULL values in datetime fields and integer fields to be loaded properly

Infx: treats a NULL and an empty string the same (back-to-back delimiters)

postgresql: uses \N for null and back-to-back delimiters for empty string

### **Character Translation**

Infx: does not translate non-text characters; e.g., outputs newlines as newlines and tabs as tabs, if field contains them

postgresql: translates non-text characters; e.g., outputs \n for newlines and \t for tabs, if fields contain them

### **dbload**

Infx: “dbload -e 10000” allows skipping of records on insert which violate primary key constraint

Postgresql does not have the dbload utility but has an EXCEPT operator which can be used as follows:

```
INSERT INTO TimeZone
```

```
SELECT DISTINCT tzone FROM Location EXCEPT SELECT tzone FROM TimeZone;
```

EXCEPT operator computes the set of rows in result set of left SELECT statement that are not in the result set of the right SELECT statement